A Resolution to Endorse Fully Protecting 30% of California's Oceans by January 2030

WHEREAS, Fully Protecting 30% of California's Oceans by January 2030 (30x30) requires a pathway for expanding and strengthening of California's Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) by March 2030; and

WHEREAS, Conserving 30% of California's coastal waters by 2030 was signed by the Governor of California, Gavin Newsom in 2020, who is an up-and-coming political leader in not just California, but also the country and on the international stage and sees protecting the environment as a leadership opportunity; and

WHEREAS, Fully Protecting 30% of California's coastal waters by January 2030 may subsequently be made more actionable by the state of California, allowing our oceans to regenerate, preventing and protecting the state of California from environmental collapse; and

WHEREAS, there is a current internal review process for the 30x30 Plan occurring within the California Department of Fish and Wildlife that is set to end in April 2023; and

WHEREAS, engaged Californians want to protect our oceans, so, if mobilized, marine experts, families, celebrities, and indigenous groups will support our cause; and

WHEREAS, oil drilling, overfishing, and insufficient protections place the health of this critical

marine environment at risk through wetland destruction, deaths of marine animals, destruction of our ecosystems, and weakening of our fight against climate change; and

WHEREAS, our ocean is one of the three major carbon sinks on Earth, absorbing around 10% of global anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions[1]; and

WHEREAS, our ocean is a crucial habitat and food source for many species, supporting 34 species of marine mammals and more than 180 species of seabirds and shorebirds[2]; and

WHEREAS, the Gulf of California's sardine fishery has collapsed four times in the last 30 years, and recent research conducted by a team of scientists at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego[3] shows that overfishing and environmental changes are nearly equal contributors to the collapse of CA's sardine fishery as climate change; and

WHEREAS, the State of California is often the first to pass environmental protections legislation and leads other states within the United States of America in environmental protections legislation[4]; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of an actionable 30x30 Plan would allow our coastal waters to naturally regenerate and prevent and protect the State of California from environmental collapse and influence other coastal states to adopt similar policies; and

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that we the UCLA Undergraduate Students Association Council (USAC) stand in strong support of the adoption of an Actionable Plan to Fully Protect 30% of California's coastal waters by April 2023, to protect our ocean from oil drilling, overfishing, and excessive plastic pollution in order to protect marine life and ecosystems and prevent the State of California from environmental collapse.

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[1] Underwood, E. "Pacific Carbon Uptake Accelerating Faster than Expected." *Eos*, 11 Aug. 2022, https://eos.org/research-spotlights/pacific-carbon-uptake-accelerating-faster-than-expected.

[2] "What Makes California's Coast so Special?" *Montereybayaquarium.org*, https://www.montereybayaquarium.org/act-for-the-ocean/california-ecosystems/the-challenge#:~:text=California's%20ocean%20wildlife&text=All%20told%2C%2034%20species%20of,include%20fishes%2C%20sharks%20and%20turtles.

[3] Monroe, Robert. "Overfishing as Significant as Environmental Factors as Cause of Sardine Fishery Collapse." *Scripps Institution of Oceanography*, UC San Diego, 4 May 2021, https://scripps.ucsd.edu/news/overfishing-significant-environmental-factors-cause-sardine-fishery-collapse.

[4] Vasilogambros, Matt. "California Takes Leading Edge on Climate Laws. Others Could Follow." *The Pew Charitable Trusts*, The Pew Charitable Trusts, 6 Oct. 2022, https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2022/10/06/california-takes-leading-edge-on-climate-laws-others-could-follow.